

OTE 84-6396

21 NOV 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Executive Director
Deputy Director for Operations
Deputy Director for Administration

FROM:
Director of Training and Education

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SUBJECT: Discussion of Covert Action in the Executive
Development Core Course

1. Participant evaluations from the first two Core Courses reflect dissatisfaction with the too broad focus, plus the repetition of material covered in other courses such as the Midcareer Course and Advanced Intelligence Seminar. In response to these criticisms, we plan to revise the Core Course which is offered to new SIS-01 officers. While our objectives remain the same, the new course will feature an in-depth examination of a topical Agency issue. This approach recognizes that some issues deserve more than a cursory examination by our new senior managers.

2. The issue selected is covert action. We believe this is a timely and appropriate choice because it is:

- a. Topical.
- b. of Agency-wide concern; fostering an executive rather than a component perspective.
- c. of particular interest to new SIS officers.
- d. a key ingredient in understanding the role of the CIA in American society today.

Moreover, we believe senior Agency officers need to discuss on a cross-directorate basis the principles and policies leading to our undertaking covert action, the management and coordination problems encountered and, most of all, to understand more clearly

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what is behind some of the criticism we hear from certain members of the Congress and the media.

3. At the same time, we appreciate that you may have some reluctance to air this issue in the present climate. If so, we can select another issue which meets the above criteria. For your information, a brief outline of the covert action portion of the course is attached. Our interest is to stimulate a discussion of the underlying policy considerations and some of the ramifications for the Agency as a whole and not to delve into sensitive ongoing operations.

4. Your approval to include a discussion of covert action in the next Core Course is requested. A quick response will be appreciated, since the Course is scheduled for mid-February. An Executive Development Elective Seminar on covert action (open to all SIS officers) is scheduled for March.

Attachment



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CONCUR:

Deputy Director for Administration

Date

Deputy Director for Operations

Date

Executive Director

Date

APPROVED:

Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Date

OTE/EDS/ [] (21 November 1984)

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ATTACHMENT

COVERT ACTION

-- "Intelligence in a Democratic Society" (A lecture by a noted academic such as Professor Huntington of Harvard). To set a philosophical framework for subsequent discussions.

-- "Perspectives on Covert Action" A review of some major past operations. What were our objectives, what worked and didn't, the legislative basis, etc. How did we get to where we are now? (We plan to ask [] to pull together this part.) 25X1

-- "The Current Scene" What are our present objectives, what can covert action accomplish, coordination within the executive branch, congressional oversight, funding, the Agency's support infrastructure, etc. (We plan to invite the Agency managers responsible for the key aspects of covert action for a series of informal discussions--to include officers from the Directorate of Operations, the General Counsel, the Director of Legislative Liaison, the Inspector General, the Comptroller, the Executive Director, and the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence.)

-- "Covert Action as Perceived by Others" (Discussions with Members of Congress and their staffs, representatives of the media and the private sector).

-- "The Soviet Perspective on Covert Action" (A presentation by a former KGB officer).

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